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— Friday, August 30, 1996 —

THE TALON

OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA/HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

Elections special issue

Sgt. Anthony Church, team chief with the 346th Psychological Operations Company, hangs non-partisan election posters at Tuzla's market square.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

From the top

Iron Soldiers must fight complacency

Some Task Force Eagle troops have been on the ground here for almost nine months now. You've done a hard job well. And, for the most part, you've done the job safely.

But any runner knows that it's the final stretch that matters most.

If you think of this deployment as a road race, you might say we're in that final stretch. When the OSCE recently certified that reasonably democratic elections can now be held in Bosnia-Herzegovina, we passed a major milestone. It was a milestone laid out on the map to peace drawn-up in Dayton, Ohio, almost one year ago.

The sailors, airmen, Marines and Iron Soldiers of this task force are not only running the race, they're helping build the road. We should be proud of what we've accomplished.



**Command
Sgt. Maj.
Jack L. Tilley**
1st Armored
Division

But we're not finished yet.

Now, more than ever, we must guard against complacency and pay close attention to the force protection measures that have thus far kept us fit to fight.

Recent terrorist threats and the upcoming elections Sept. 14 demand we keep force protection and the safety of every member of Task Force Eagle foremost in our minds as we complete the mission here.

I often use this space to talk about complacency. But have you ever really thought about what it means?

I recently asked Sgt. Maj. David J. Budzinski at the Center for Army Lessons Learned what he thought the word means. Budzinski said he liked the Random House College Dictionary definition best.

Random House defines complacency as being "pleased with oneself or one's merits, advantages or situation, etc., often without an awareness of some potential danger."

It's up to Task Force Eagle NCOs to make sure their soldiers don't become complacent.

Here are a few signs of complacency Sgt.

Maj. Budzinski told me he's noticed while traveling around the area lately:

Soldiers at checkpoints allowing local civilian personnel, especially children, to enter or look inside vehicles.

Vehicle operators not performing preventative maintenance checks and services on a daily basis.

Soldiers on convoy not posting security when the convoy stops.

Troops stepping out of vehicles and off a hardtop road into potentially mined areas.

These are all violations of standards which have been in place for months now. It's time for NCOs to "shake it out" and help Task Force Eagle troops finish this final stretch in good form.

This is a race we can all win. For the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the prize is nothing less than peace and hope for the future.

For the rest of us, the prize is just as precious: a safe return to our families, friends and homes. Let's not let complacency rob us of that now. Remember, Iron Soldiers take care of each other.

Viewpoint

Bosnia's national elections opportunity for idea

Driving home from work in Austin, Texas, one sunny, spring afternoon earlier this year, I was listening to the news on the radio.

An army commander was talking to some soldiers during a reenlistment ceremony in the field. He asked his troops to remember why they were serving, and he told them that they were unique because they had sworn to uphold and defend an idea ... not a government, not a president, but an idea.

The commander was Col. Gregory R. Fontenot, commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team. I listened intently as Fontenot spoke. It was a lesson in political philosophy and a pep talk all



**Spc.
Aaron R. Reed**
100th MPAD

in one. I listened intently because I had just heard I would soon be where Fontenot was: Bosnia.

When I received word that my Texas Army National Guard unit would soon deploy to Bosnia, I wondered why we were going, and if the mission was worthwhile.

Now I'm here, and I find my thoughts turning to the idea Fontenot was talking about. It's an idea that says all men are created equal, with certain, inalien-

able rights. It's an idea that says government serves the people, not the other way around; and that in our form of government we live under the rule of law, not the whim of an individual.

The idea Fontenot talked about is spelled out in a couple of documents sealed under glass at the National Archives in Washington. If you go there, you can walk right up to them and read the words. And while our form of government might not work for everyone else in the world, the idea can.

That's because the idea has a life outside those documents, even outside the borders of the United States. The idea leads people to the conclusion that it's

better to solve their national disagreements with ballots rather than bombs and bullets.

On Sept. 14, the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina will be voting. After four years of vicious conflict, people here finally will have a chance to choose a lasting peace.

The elections are a chance for Bosnians of all religious and political persuasions to touch that idea. They are a chance, however fleeting, for people who have suffered so many indignities to embrace a measure of humanity.

I think maybe that's enough reason for us to be here. I think that, if we helped in some small way to make this possible, then our presence here has been worthwhile.

THE TALON

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■ POLLS OPEN IN TWO WEEKS

Elections to test Dayton Agreement

Maj. Jack Guy of Task Force Eagle's Military Civil Relations Operation Center is working with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on the Sept. 14 national elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Here are his thoughts on the upcoming vote.

As Sept. 14 approaches, there is a danger that people will look to the election as the solution to all their problems. They might view the election, in and of itself, as the most important aspect of the Dayton Peace Accord. And certainly, elections are symbolic of democracy throughout the world.

The right to vote is cherished worldwide; it is the cornerstone of the social contract between the governors and the governed. Indeed, elections give government legitimacy.

However, the real point of an election is not what happens on election day, but what happens afterward.

The life of a republic lies in the daily give and take of politics. It is the constant search for compromise which allows people in all lands, of all political, ethnic, and religious persuasions, to live together in a civilized, productive community.

People are born free in this world, giving up certain rights for the sake of protection, commerce, and the richness of community.

The election process is a built-in pressure release system. It allows people to express their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the government.

We turn to our elected representatives to refine our needs and desires. We should expect them to find ways to resolve differences between people who share the desire to live in peace.

Can we look to history and find any great nation which did not allow its peo-

ple to agree to disagree?

The signatories of the Dayton Peace Accord promised to facilitate an election; they did not promise that every voter would vote for the winning politician or party. No republic in the world expects its elections to produce leaders whose views will be uncontested or unquestioned. Indeed, the beauty of representative democracy is that in many ways, the truth is found in the search for compromise.

The vision of all must be the singular dream of a nation based on mutual respect for all human beings. The electorate must share the belief that through the hard work of men and women of good faith, decisions can be made which will solve the disagreements which exist in every democratic land in the world.

Politics is not an exact science because people are the key to all political activity. The difficult aspect of politics is to find solutions through discussion, not intimidation and violence.

An exciting part of an election is the process of establishing a party's platform. By design, the party must meet the needs of the people it represents. An even more exciting aspect of this process, however, comes after the election. Here the substance of the election is transformed into action. Here the legitimizing power of the vote is translated into everyday life. Here, the give and take of compromise, so necessary in the life of a democracy, takes place.

The election on Sept. 14, will be a watershed event in the history of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It will not be the most important event of the year. That will transpire after election day. The transfer of responsibility from voters to representatives will signal the start of the real political process, the process of government in action.



Graphic by
Sgt. 1st Class
Stephen M. Lum

OSCE postpones Sept. 14 municipal voting

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Ambassador Robert H. Frowick announced Monday that municipal elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina have been postponed. In a statement released in Sarajevo, Frowick cited concerns that electoral guidelines had been seriously distorted at the municipal level.

Frowick said that elections at the higher levels will still take place as scheduled on Sept. 14. Elections scheduled to take place include:

House of Representatives of Bosnia-Herzegovina
Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina
House of Representatives of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina
National Assembly of Republika Srpska
Presidency of Republika Srpska
Cantons

News briefs

You can be a star

Soldiers tell the Army story better than anyone. The Joint Information Bureau wants to help you tell your story to the civilian media. If your unit is doing something for the first time, something unique, or something with local civilians, call the JIB and we'll mobilize a media event for you!

If you're interested, you may call: Maj. Poole or Sgt. 1st Class Mirabella at MSE 551-5231 or PTT 830-199

Don't drink the water

The only potable water at Eagle Base is at the dining facility or from a bottle. Water in other buildings, including bathrooms is non-potable. A recent inspection showed that Eagle Base's water supply has bacteria in it. This bacteria can cause diarrhea. Soldiers should use bottled water to brush their teeth. Mouth rinsing in the shower should be avoided.

Phone calls cost money

High phone bills can be a problem for soldiers on deployment trying to keep in touch with family and friends back home. Smart planning can keep the cost of long distance calling under control.

AT&T offers a Military Savers Plan. Soldiers pay \$5 per month to waive the service charge for their first 30 calls.

Using phone cards helps monitor long distance costs. Cards are available in denominations of \$20, \$40 and \$60.

Long distance rates vary. Soldiers should check posters in AT&T tents for the best times to make calls.

Commanders can authorize DSN morale calls.

Soldiers are responsible for settling their debts.

Weekly weather forecast

	HIGH/LOW	CHANCE RAIN
Today	77/59	Moderate
Sat	77/60	Low
Sun	82/62	Low
Mon	79/60	High
Tue	75/58	High
Wed	74/58	High
Thur	75/58	Moderate

Prepared Aug. 28 by the 617th Weather Squadron

Big guns give firm, reassuring presence

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

CAMP KIME — Elections and reshaping of forces will require a few mission changes for the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery.

"As elections near, we will be moving around more to watch over towns," Staff Sgt. Charlie J. Walker, gunnery sergeant for Battery B, 2-3 FA said.

Since the early stages of deployment, field artillery units have been doing show-of-force missions.

Selecting appropriate locations to dig in is a crucial step in the process. An advance party goes out to recon the traveling routes to ensure the platoon's four, huge, 27-ton M109-A3 self-propelled howitzers can maneuver through tight winding roads shared by pedestrians and horse-drawn wagons. Open, accessible areas are chosen instead of remote sites because howitzer platoons not only require nearby roadways, they also need to have unobstructed views of their perimeter.

"Our battalion operations

staff gives us a grid coordinate, and we set up at a good spot as close as possible," Walker said.

Terrain features often dictate where they dig in.

"We can't set up our howitzers close behind mountains or where buildings are directly in our path," Walker said.

"We look for nearby houses that have been abandoned and use them for shelter after we've checked them for mines and booby traps.

"Guards with .50 cal's are posted, and we maintain radio and digital communications

with battalion headquarters 24 hours a day so we'll be ready if a fire mission comes down," 2nd Lt. Patrick Chang, acting platoon leader for 1st platoon said.

Show-of-force missions do more than provide a firm and reassuring presence, they give howitzer crews valuable practice in anticipation of actual target fire missions.

"Once we get a mission it will take just seconds to get the turret into position," said Sgt. Alfred Cornelius, section chief. "We can fire up to four rounds a minute."



Spc. Aaron R. Reed

Maj. Gil Gilbertson, Task Force Eagle International Police liaison officer explains IPTF's role in the upcoming elections.

International police expect cooperation, defiance

By Capt. TERRY L. CONDER
100th MPAD

They are policemen without guns. They are policemen without jurisdictional clout. In two weeks they will be in the middle of the most important event to take place in Bosnia-Herzegovina this year — the Sept. 14 elections.

"No one really knows what's going to happen," Maj. Gil

Gilbertson, International Police Task Force liaison officer for Task Force Eagle said. "There are two schools of thought. One is that the everyone will cooperate, and we won't have any big problems. The other is that there will be acts of defiance."

IPTF officers are unarmed civil-

ians. They have no law-enforcing authority.

Their responsibilities are clearly defined in the General Framework Agreement for Peace.

"Our major role here is to monitor the civilian police," Gilbertson said. "We keep track of what they do, and what they don't do. Although we wear police uniforms, we have no authority to arrest anyone."

Bosnia-Herzegovina has 40,000 police officers. There are 1,750 IPTF officers in country, 164 of whom are American. Police forces will be fully deployed for the elections.

"Everyone's taking the election very seriously. There are a number of hot spots around the country that we are keeping our eyes on," Gilbertson said.

Local police will provide security at polling sites. Bosnian Serb, Bosnian Croat and Bosniak police will vote the day be-

fore the general population.

No police will be allowed inside polling stations Sept. 14.

"IPTF officers will be monitoring local police to make sure they follow election rules," Gilbertson said.

IPTF officers have little authority, but they do have a powerful weapon with which to fight corruption.

"They are looking at cutting in half the number of local police officers in the country after the election," Gilbertson said.

"IPTF will have some say in which officers get to keep their jobs and who is released."

For now though, all sides are preparing for the Sept. 14 elections.

IFOR, IPTF, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe are deeply committed to the election process in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

IPTF's responsibility during the election is clear. "We will focus all of our attention on the local police," Gilbertson said.

Responsibilities of IPTF officers: (As defined in the General Framework Agreement for Peace)

- Monitor, observe and inspect law enforcement activities and facilities
- Advise law enforcement personnel and forces
- Train law enforcement personnel
- Assess threats to public order and advise how to deal with those threats
- Advise governmental authorities on the organization of civilian law enforcement agencies
- Accompany law enforcement personnel on duty

Election officials flood into Bosnia

Spc. DANIEL PASCHALL
100th MPAD

IFOR has brought peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Now it's up to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to help implement democracy.

All parties to the Dayton Peace Agreement are working closely with OSCE in preparation for the Sept. 14 elections. The OSCE has certified that conditions exist in Bosnia-Herzegovina which permit free and fair elections. Now the organization will implement an elections program, and it will supervise the preparation and conduct of the elections.

To accomplish these tasks, OSCE works closely with the Office of the High Representative, Carl Bildt, who directs the civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement. IFOR imple-



Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

ments the military aspects of the peace agreement, and the International Police Task Force monitors civilian police.

OSCE, headquartered in Sarajevo, has 200 international and over 200 locally hired staff members who are stationed in regional centers and field offices.

Another 1,200 supervisors will arrive to oversee procedures and ensure that election regulations are met.

"IFOR is supporting our activities in country by getting our personnel to their places. There is very good cooperation," OSCE spokeswoman

Aggie Kuperman said.

"The OSCE will operate roughly 4,400 polling stations in cooperation with Local Election Commissions on Sept. 14," Director General of Elections for OSCE Jeff Fischer said.

The OSCE also created the Provisional Election Commission to register political parties and independent candidates.

The PEC has seven members: four representatives of the international community, one Bosnian Serb, one Bosnian Croat and one Bosniak.

"The design work that we have undertaken on this process

has been done in cooperation — in fact in consultation — with the Bosnian Serb, Bosniak, and Croat members of the PEC," Fischer said.

The PEC is also responsible for an open and fair electoral campaign, the establishment, publication, and certification of definitive election results, and making sure all parties comply with electoral regulations.

"The PEC passes the rules and regulations which govern (the elections)," Fischer said.

OSCE is also working to educate the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina about how and where to vote.

"Voter education information has been widely disseminated all over by the OSCE," Kuperman said. "We're working closely with the local authorities, and there is very good support and interaction with them."

Bradley crews practice putting steel on target

By Sgt. TIM PINKHAM
350th MPAD

TABORFALVA, Hungary — M2 Infantry Bradley Fighting Vehicle gunners from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, know how to put steel on target.

"I'm impressed with this bunch of guys," said Staff Sgt. Harold E. McKenzie, 32, the company's master gunner. He said his soldiers performed better than any unit that fired here this year. McKenzie gained the title master gunner by completing the Bradley Master Gunner School at Fort Benning, Ga.

All 14 Bradley crews from Company C qualified, along with two crews from Battery A, 5th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, which traveled with Company C. Six of the 3-5 Cav crews qualified on the first run, and all of them qualified by the third run.

Two crews qualified as superior, which required successfully completing eight of 10 tasks. Two tasks are tested at night and one must be in a simulated nuclear, biological or chemical environment, with soldiers in mission-oriented protective posture four.

Staff Sgt. Vicente A. Donato, Spc. Ryan A. Antwine and Pfc. Bill T. Falcone; and

2nd Lt. Charles D. Evans, Sgt. Bryce Ivings and Spc. Alfredo Irizarry qualified superior.

"We didn't have regular train-up like we do at home," McKenzie said. "The impressive showing is a direct result of the training NCOs conducted for these crews on short notice."

For a Bradley crew to qualify, soldiers must successfully score a T for trained or a P for needs practice on seven of 10 tasks.

"Six tasks are done during the day and four at night," McKenzie said. "There was one NBC task for both day and night."

For the day engagements, each Bradley crew was given 29 armor-piercing and 32 high-explosive rounds, along with 350 rounds of coaxial machine gun ammunition. At night, each crew received 29 AP and 16 HE rounds, along with 200 rounds for the machine gun.

Donato, 36, said he was a 1st Platoon dismount squad leader before becoming a Bradley commander in April. His soldiers ran checkpoints and conducted NATO arms inspections.

"It's really helped me a lot to be in Hungary," Donato said. "I'm a new BC and have a new crew."

A day before the Bradley crews qualified, they completed the Bradley Crew Proficiency Course. This course is a prerequi-

site to gunnery, and it develops crew coordination and command and control. "It really helps the crew a lot," Donato said.

"I like gunning," Antwine, 23, said. "It's fun shooting real bullets."

Falcone, 20, a Bradley driver, said it felt "weird at first" to drive a different vehicle than the one he is used to in Bosnia. "Bradleys pull a lot more missions than tanks," Falcone said. "Bradleys carry infantry soldiers who can dismount and perform ground operations. Tanks are too heavy for some roads and bridges."

All three crew members said they enjoyed getting away from Bosnia for gunnery practice.

"It really feels great; it's a good break for everybody," Donato said. "R and R is good, but the main focus is gunnery."

"This is real nice," Antwine said. "It breaks the monotony. I finally have an opportunity to go downtown and do some shopping and get some souvenirs."

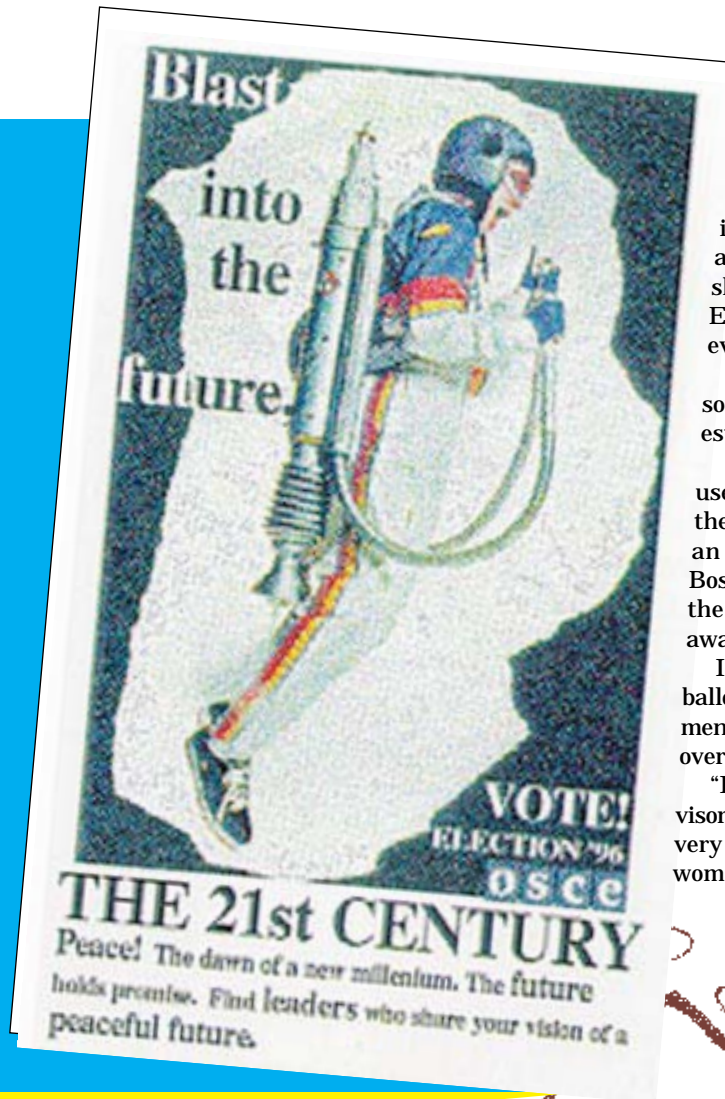
"I'm glad we had a chance to do this," Falcone said. "It builds morale, because everyone wants to do well in gunnery. It gives everyone a chance to get a breather, too."

Sgt. Tim Pinkham

An M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle blasts down a lane at the Taborfalva, Hungary, gunnery range. All crews returned to Bosnia-Herzegovina after qualifying.

IFOR's election

By Spc. DANIEL PASCHALL
100th MPAD



IFOR has been the overshadowing international force in Bosnia for the past eight months, but as the elections approach, responsibility for implementing democracy will shift to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. IFOR, however, will continue to play a vital role in the elections.

IFOR's responsibilities will include training OSCE personnel, providing communication and logistical support and establishing a firm and reassuring presence.

Training will include mine awareness, first aid and the use of IFOR's communication network. IFOR is providing the OSCE with communication equipment which will allow an effective web of communication to be spread across Bosnia-Herzegovina, keeping everyone involved with the elections a phone call or radio transmission away.

IFOR will transport, disperse and collect ballots and ballot boxes. It will coordinate movement of OSCE supervisors who are charged with overseeing election procedures and regulations.

"It is an enormous task getting 1,200 supervisors throughout this country, and we have had very successful arrangements," OSCE spokeswoman Aggie Kuperman said.

IFOR will also provide emergency maintenance, supply and ac-



mission clear

commodations for OSCE supervisors.

IFOR's primary role will be to provide security throughout the country when voters go to the polling sites. Although IFOR will bring a firm and reassuring presence to the elections, it will not act as police.

"The main responsibility for giving the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina the freedom to vote rests on the parties, and their forces of law and order, the police," IFOR spokesman Col. Max Marriner said. "But should election day troubles make it past all those barriers — IFOR, the force of last resort — will be poised to respond."

This does not mean that IFOR will be a passive bystander during the elections.

"We will be active, we will be involved and we will look to prevent violence rather than respond to violence," IFOR spokesman Maj. Brett Boudreau said.

IFOR soldiers will not guard polling stations, escort political candidates, escort voters, handle individual ballot papers, or communicate an intent to undertake riot control.

IFOR will continue to monitor compliance with the Dayton Peace Agreement.

"There is no one else here capable of doing our job. That is keeping the country at peace with our military presence and military power," Marriner said.

Marriner said that by remaining politically neutral, IFOR expects to make people feel secure when casting their votes.

osce

ВОДИЧ ИЗБОРНОГ ПРОЦЕСА ЗА НАРОДЕ БОСНЕ И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНЕ

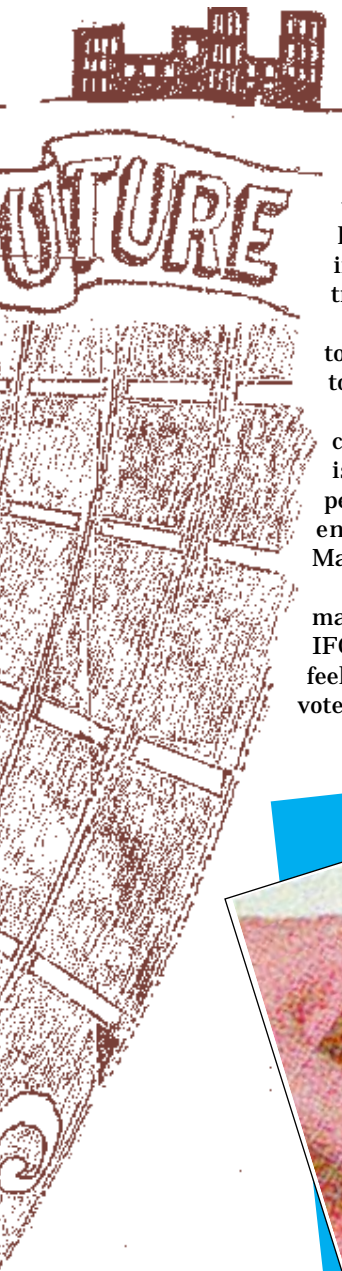
Генералним оквиром Споразума за мир, Стране су захтевале од ОСЦЕ-а да надгледа припреме и спроведе изборе у Босни и Херцеговини.

По Мировном споразуму, сви избори морају бити завршени до 14. септембра. 1996.

Директно изабрани представници ће почети вршити своје дужности најкасније 30 дана после избора.

Споразум обавезује Стране да створе услове под којима се слободни и поштени избори могу одржати, тако што ће штитити право гласања без застрашивања и осигурати слободу говора, штампе и удруживања.

Избори су први корак према демократији, трајном миру и економској обнови.



Tuzla mayor speaks out on elections, IFOR

By ARIJANA SABANOVIC
Talon Staff

Ever since people started talking about the elections, I've heard many different opinions. How can anyone know the truth with so many ideas around?

So I arranged to speak with Selim Beslagic, Mayor of Tuzla.

I know soldiers hear a lot about the elections from IFOR's point of view. From Beslagic's position, he might be able to lend some additional insight. He speaks freely about politics and was happy to talk.

Q: Do you think the elections will make a difference in our country?

A: I have to tell you that Bosnians have high expectations and hopes for these elections. For sure the elections will bring some change. We will find out if national parties are right when they speak about representing the people. We are expecting these elections to make some changes and I am convinced changes will take place after these elections.

Q: What are your feelings about the Dayton Peace Agreement?

A: The Dayton agreement says that all people can go back to their homes to vote. People who were expelled from their houses have the right to return to them. Everyone also has the right to stay in their new location too. This is a dilemma, should people vote where they are, or where their homes are?

Q: How important is it for the people to vote?

A: It is absolutely important. We appeal to all citizens to vote.

Q: Do you know what percentage of the people in Tuzla are registered to vote?

A: I can say in Tuzla 70,000 people are registered.

Q: What do you foresee for the future of Tuzla and Bosnia-Herzegovina?

A: I would like to say that I am an incorrigible optimist. We should have a free

economy, and let the economy do its job.

Q: Can you tell me how IFOR is helping in these elections?

A: IFOR's role is mandated by the Dayton Agreement. IFOR has done a great job with the military part of the agreement. We always expect and hope for IFOR to participate more than it does. I think, for sure, that we will be looking for IFOR to guarantee security for voters traveling to another entity.

Q: What are local government officials doing to make sure the elections are peaceful?

A: We have to say that our civilian police know their obligations and are competent. We are doing everything we can to make sure not one incident happens. We predict that IFOR's presence will add to the calmness.

Q: What is the greatest challenge to holding elections?

A: The greatest challenge is having the Bosnian people believe in the elections. They must believe in the Dayton Agreement from A to Z.

Q: What do you hope or expect for these elections?

A: For sure I wouldn't be in politics if I didn't expect to win. However, we expect to win in Tuzla. If my party doesn't win, we will get a high percentage.

Q: Do you have anything you'd like to add?

A: I have to say that I hope IFOR will open Tuzla Airport. This has been promised to us. I think the destiny of Bosnia-Herzegovina is in the hands of Bosnians and Herzegovats.

We want to show the world that we are part of Europe.

My biggest criticism of IFOR is the way soldiers are not allowed to walk our streets.

I told IFOR's leaders that their soldiers will miss much if they do not experience our culture.

Tuzla is over 1,000 years old. Compared to American history, we have much more. I would like to see American soldiers meet Bosnia-Herzegovina.

MI
GRADIMO
BOŁJU
BUDUCNOST
ZAJEDNO



OSCE MISSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

"We are building a better future together." -- OSCE poster



OSCE voter education poster

IFOR commander comments on mission

Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Walker, Commander, Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps made the following comments Aug. 19 about IFOR's role in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

● On IFOR's primary mission

We're an army sent here with weapons of war ... to discourage war.

We're an army sent here with a robust mandate ... because less drastic solutions failed.

That makes us Bosnia-Herzegovina's force of last resort, not to be used lightly

We were sent here as soldiers to keep warring factions apart, not because there was a shortage of policemen.

● On IFOR and the Sept. 14 elections

The Dayton Peace Agreement granted the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina the chance to have new elections while IFOR is here.

In broad terms, I can tell you that IFOR has a very clear-cut role, and a firm policy.

The role and policy are based on the fact that we're an army, sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina by NATO to keep war from resuming, and to deliver the security necessary for democracy to occur.

● On cooperation with the former warring factions

We believe in preventing trouble before it happens. That's why our officers spend a great deal of time meeting with local officials, like mayors, canton presidents, par-

ty spokesmen and police chiefs. These relaxed yet official meetings help stiffen their backbone to deal with troublemakers and those who want to provoke conflict and crime.

● On IFOR's role in maintaining law and order

If anything, when IFOR troops arrived there were too many policemen, manning too many checkpoints. But they weren't providing much law and order. Those checkpoints are gone. That lesson shouldn't be forgotten.

As we've said many times, when confronted with questions about police protection in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the duty to provide basic public safety and law and order lies squarely with the local police at the city and community level, working for the legally constituted governments.

● On IFOR and law enforcement

If IFOR becomes the police, when IFOR leaves, there won't be any police. We would leave having taken something away from Bosnia-Herzegovina, something vital — the right to govern and police themselves.

That's why, when we detain people, we turn them over to the local police. That's their job, to deal with their local courts and judges and jails.

We have a different job. We didn't bring courts, judges and jails.

● On IFOR and the International

Police Task Force

We recognize, of course, that the local police forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina have a lot of problems, one of which is that in their own ranks are lawbreakers, and law-ignorers, who watch crimes being committed or criminals flee, and do nothing.

The first line of defense against these bad cops are the good cops of the International Police Task Force. They have a tough job, and we support them in every way.

We support them with liaison offices, and communications, and with our military patrols, which form a strong band of security they can count on — as a last resort — when there is trouble.

● On IFOR's relationship with local police

There will continue to be conflict and crime in Bosnia-Herzegovina, for as long as IFOR is here. But at the same time, the international community will continue to back up the local police with a few extra layers of security. If IFOR has to move in, it means the local system has failed. It means the troublemakers have broken the fragile democratic shield.

And it means Bosnia-Herzegovina will again have to work that much harder to develop a new system, one that doesn't need our force of last resort.

● On IFOR's other roles

IFOR is performing a great variety of tasks in Bosnia-Herzegovina, from building bridges to transporting food to helping plan and carry out the elections.



Laugh it up

(Clockwise from left.) Jessica Callahan, 8; Brandon Bright, 10; Ashley Forshey, 11; and Evin Page, 9 enjoy the show at Warner Brothers Movie World. The children in the 53rd Area Support Group's Bad Kreuznach Youth Services branch visited Warner Brothers Movie World as part of the Summer New Adventure Program.



Sgt. Lynford A. Morton

■ GERMANY

Base renovations bring big changes

By Spc. CARRIA LEE
201st Public Affairs Detachment

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany — Strategically placed scaffolding and busy work crews are evidence that the U.S. Army, Europe-funded Facilities Improvement Program is in full swing in Bad Kreuznach and Dexheim's military communities.

The program renovates installations with troops deployed for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

"The idea is to use the situation in a positive way and minimize the impact on residents," said Brig. Gen. Hans A. Van Winkle, USAREUR deputy chief of staff for engineering.

FIP allots the 410th Base Support Battalion \$4.163 million for 72 major and minor repair and improvement projects throughout the two communities, said Edward W. Crane, 410th BSB's director of engineering and housing.

Local German contractors will perform the work.

"We compiled the list of projects by attending town meetings and listening to what was needed in the communities," said Crane.

"We looked at what could be done without displacing families and what would make a difference to the community."

Some of the projects include: paint and carpet in Rose Barracks' quarters, sewer line and shower repair in HHC, 1st AD's soldiers quarters, playground repairs, road

repairs, and recreation facility repairs.

The improvements are visible for those returning from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Renovations and repairs will continue throughout the deployment. Most of the work is expected to be complete before the

deployed troops come home, said Crane.

"There will be a tangible, visible improvement when the soldiers return," said Van Winkle. "The bottom line is to make things better for our soldiers and families. That's what it's all about."

Here's what FIP will do in other communities:

222nd BSB - Baumholder, Neubruecke and Strassburg

- Repair playground equipment in all Smith, Wetzel and Neubruecke housing areas
- Renovate Smith and Strassburg Health Clinics and Child Development Centers
- Total renovation of the Iron Club
- Renovate two Smith dining facilities
- Interior and exterior renovation of the Youth Center
- Construct parking lot by Chapel One
- Repair panic bolt locks in stairwell doors
- Repair electrical supply lines to Smith housing area
- Install emergency lighting at the Rheinlander Club
- Upgrade transformer stations

221st BSB - Wiesbaden/McCully Barracks

- Replace bay doors at motor pool on McCully Barracks
- Renovate Youth Services Gymnasium in Hainerberg housing
- Repair closets at McCully Barracks
- Install smoke detectors at child development center on Wiesbaden Air Base
- Refinish gymnasium floors and repair roofs on Wiesbaden Air Base
- Repair roofs, exterior heating lines and fire damage to various buildings in housing area
- Repair playground equipment in Wiesbaden housing area

■ COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Soldiers bring joy to schools, orphanages

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

Soldiers stand in the doorway of schools and orphanages loaded with mysterious boxes. The chorus of the children's welcome songs gets louder as they invite the soldiers inside their classrooms. Some children rush to the boxes awaiting the surprises within; others remain at a distance, not quite sure what to make of the situation. A few toddlers ignore the boxes entirely — wanting only to be held.

Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division, 181st Transportation Battalion, 360th and 403rd Civil Affairs battalions visited children one on one, donating toys, school supplies, teddy bears, and a sharing the most important gift of all, compassion.

Various organizations and many families of soldiers organized donation drives in their communities in Germany and the U.S.

Petra Billings, wife of Sgt. 1st. Class Kevin Billings, HHC, 1st AD, and her friends from the Bad Kreuznach Community Club collected toys for three months.

"When our spouses deployed we all watched the news and saw that the children had nothing," Billings said. "We thought this

would show our support for the mission and show the people of Bosnia that we care."

The 181st Trans. Bn. soldiers, based out of Mannheim, Germany, used their contacts to enlist the help of Good Bears International of Colorado who donated 250 teddy bears. Their families have used their resources and donated clothes, books, household goods and of course, toys.

Master Sgt. Nick Rozumny, who grew up in the former Yugoslavia and now calls Stowe, Ohio home, is with Company D, 165th Military Intelligence Battalion, and a toy donation volunteer. He noticed that soldiers are personally bringing toys to the 1st AD's 360th Civil Military Cooperation Center.

"I know a soldier from the band who had written to his parents to send toys so he could donate them. He wanted to make children happy, to bring a smile to their faces," Rozumny said.

So far the CIMIC has delivered 17 of 56 boxes of toys sent from Bad Kreuznach to elementary schools in the Tuzla area.

The 181st Trans. Bn., from Camp Tampa, donated their teddy bears to an orphanage in downtown Tuzla with the coordination of the 403rd.

"We are basically the middlemen helping the soldiers and



Staff Sgt. Anna M. Prusaitis

Staff Sgt. Carl Prator demonstrates the proper form for blowing bubbles.

their families get the bears and their donated goods into the right hands," said Capt. Guillermo Tous, liaison officer for the 403rd. "All the credit should go to the 181st and their families because they did all the work."

"Many soldiers haven't had the opportunity to see the civilian population. For a lot of them it's their first chance to interact with the children. It's a special time for the soldiers because their rotation is coming to an end, and after eight or nine months they haven't been outside the gates of their camps."

All of the projects have been a success, far exceeding anyone's expectations. "Due to reshaping and the pending redeployment we are trying to find a way of backing off," said 181st Trans. Bn. Chap. (Capt.) Matt Woodbery, of Cochran, Ga. "We want to encourage people to be concerned and help out, but our time will be very valuable to us as we finish reshaping our forces. As a transportation battalion we'll be heavily involved in those activities — it's a very critical time for us. That's why we're

making our donation contacts now," Woodbery said.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Kohring, a civil affairs sergeant with the 403rd, from Syracuse, N.Y., spent the day hauling boxes of bears from door to door. "I wanted to help because children can be such fun. My reward is seeing all those smiles, especially from the little 2- to 3-year-olds. They were starved for attention, so I really enjoyed sitting and holding them a while," Kohring said.

"Who knows what kind of emotional scars and memories they have of the war. If we can give them the memory that an army can do good deeds, be peaceful and helpful, perhaps they'll see that an army doesn't always have to be fighting," Rozumny said.

"Soldiers should rest assured that the people here are very appreciative of their peacekeeping efforts. I'd like all soldiers to know that even though they're not off post, their presence is felt. They should return home feeling that whatever role they had here — it was important part of helping keep the peace."



Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Master Sgt. Nick Rozumny builds a toy fence for kids at a school in Basigovci.

Bosna i Hercegovina – izbori '96

Bosnia-Herzegovina – elections '96

IFOR soldiers support elections with get-out-the-vote drive

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

TUZLA — It's another crowded market day in downtown Tuzla. Scores of people huddle around a small group of American soldiers hanging election posters - one tree, one light pole at a time.

There's much talk among the citizens as Bosnia-Herzegovina prepares for the big day, Sept. 14.

The clock is counting down to election day, and the soldiers of the 346th Civil Military Operations Company from Columbus, Ohio, hear the ticking louder than most.

"Today is the first time we've distributed this batch of new posters," Sgt. Tom Hollis said. Hollis was posting signs that encourage Tuzla's citizens to exercise their right to vote.

"We go to city market places, parks and wherever there are lots

of people," he said.

Task Force Eagle soldiers are plastering posters in market places in Tuzla, Lukavac, Zivinice and Dobonja.

The posters endorse neither political parties nor candidates. Rather, they are part of an information campaign much like MTV's "Rock the Vote" in America.

Although the posters do nothing more than urge people to vote, not everyone likes the message. Some posters are torn down the same day they are put up. But Hollis and his team keep track of the number and locations of the posters they hang.

They file daily reports on poster distribution, and conduct public opinion surveys in every town they visit. The team uses the in-

formation they gather, along with subjective observations to determine the political climate of the towns they visit.

Over the course of several weeks Hollis has noticed fewer posters being torn down.

"People are more receptive now. I check the dumpsters, streets, and alleys for evidence that the posters are being trashed. I don't see much of that happening here in Tuzla," he said.

Other locations still have quite a few torn down. But Hollis is not a bit discouraged. "They may tear them down, but we'll return to put them right back up again," he said.

OSCE posters tweak interest

By Capt. TERRY L. CONDER
100th MPAD

Almost everyone who sees one, stops and stares. And that's exactly what Lesley Israel hoped would happen.

Israel works for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. OSCE is responsible for implementing the Sept. 14 election in Bosnia-Herzegovina. IFOR personnel are working with OSCE to hang over 2,500 voter information posters throughout Task Force Eagle's area of responsibility.

One poster shows 18 apples neatly arranged in five rows on a dark green background. At the bottom of the poster is a short phrase in Bosnian, "Choose the best."

The message is intentionally cryptic.

"The posters were designed to tweak people's interest and curiosity," Israel said. "They are bright and colorful, and force you to stop and take a second look."

Like shoppers staring at 3-D posters harboring hidden pictures, Bosniaks often gather around the voter education placards.

"We have a whole series of posters," Israel said. "The ones with fruit and vegetables are designed to get people thinking and talking about the election."

Other OSCE posters are not so cryptic. They explain

the who, what, when, where, and how of voting.

Everything OSCE distributes is completely apolitical.

"The parties produce their own material to attract voters. OSCE posters are strictly informational," Israel said. "We're simply trying to mobilize people to get out and vote."

Elections are not a new thing to people in Bosnia-Herzegovina. OSCE came here to implement the election, not teach people about democrat-

ic government.

"I was working on an election in a Middle Eastern country a few years ago, and a man in his 50s told me he would be voting for the first time in his life. That is not the case here," Israel said.

There are many yardsticks by which the elections will be judged.

One measure of success will be the size of voter turnout.

If the turnout is large, the posters hanging in towns from Brcko to Sarajevo deserve some of the credit.

Thousands of these Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe "get out the vote" signs are being posted throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina. They say: "Bosnia-Herzegovina – elections '96," and at the bottom, "Choose the best."



osce